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Kennedy Orders Study of Secret CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency is still described as a super-secret organization which conducts old-fashioned cloak-and-dagger spying, among other things. However, a lot of information about the organization has reached the American people since the ill-fated Cuban invasion. This information includes the fact that the CIA experts are badly mistaken in their view that an invasion force of about 1,500 persons could inspire a Cuban revolt and bring about the ouster of Dictator Castro. And the American people have also learned that the CIA has a payroll in Washington of between 8,000 and 10,000 persons with other thousands at work overseas. They would like to learn more about the nature and quality of the services requiring so many persons.

Other information about the vast organization of which Allen W. Dulles is director, doubtless will escape to the people as a result of President Kennedy's order of yesterday directing a special six-member

board to conduct a full-scale study of CIA and other government agencies conducting foreign intelligence activities. The State Department and the armed services operate their own intelligence services. The board will report from time to time to the President. The President probably will give some information to Congress to quiet the congressional yearnings for a committee of its own.

It is worth noting that on the six-member board will be Gen. James H. Doolittle. He made a confidential report on intelligence operations for President Eisenhower in 1954, so he should be a valued helper for Dr. James R. Killian, head of the board. Doolittle has been quoted as saying that gaining intelligence is one thing, interpreting the information is another, and the use of that information is the third. Critics are saying CIA deserves bad marks on all three points, and the general public appears to back the critics.